

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: 1978 MOZAMBIQUE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR SUB-  
MISSION TO THE CONGRESS

REF: STATE 22819

MOZAMBIQUE

MOZAMBIQUE, A FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY WHICH GAINED IN-  
DEPENDENCE IN 1975, HAS EMBARKED ON A SOCIALIST COURSE  
OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF ITS SOLE  
POLITICAL PARTY, FRELIMO (FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF  
MOZAMBIQUE). CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES HAVE BEEN  
CONSIDERABLY CIRCUMSCRIBED. THERE HAVE BEEN FEW ALLE-  
GATIONS OF CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENT. THE  
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MOZAMBICAN GOVERNMENT IS MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT TO MEET  
THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE POPULATION, BUT IT HAS BEEN  
SERIOUSLY HINDERED BY SEVERE SHORTAGES OF RESOURCES AND  
PERSONNEL.

1. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON INCLUDING  
FREEDOM FROM:

A. TORTURE

TORTURE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE PRACTICED OR COUNTENANCED.

B. CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS OF CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT.

C. ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT

DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL IS FREQUENTLY PRACTICED IN MOZAMBIQUE, LARGELY FOR PURPOSES OF POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION. THE NUMBER OF PERSONS INVOLVED APPEARS TO BE CONSIDERABLE, BUT THE MOZAMBIKAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT DIVULGED FIGURES ON HOW MANY IT IS HOLDING AT ITS "REEDUCATION" CAMPS.

D. DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL

BECAUSE OF LACK OF EXPERIENCE AND PERSONNEL, THE OPERATION OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS ERRATIC. FURTHERMORE, THE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO RESHAPE SOCIETY TO FIT "SOCIALIST" PATTERNS HAS LED TO TRIALS AT VARIANCE WITH NORMAL JUDICIAL PROCEDURES. IN MANY INSTANCES, PERSONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCUSED OF A CRIME ARE TRIED AND SENTENCED BY A SECURITY OFFICIAL AND HAVE NO RECOURSE TO A FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR AN ACCUSED TO RETAIN PRIVATE LEGAL COUNSEL SINCE THE PRIVATE PRACTICE OF LAW HAS BEEN ABOLISHED.

E. INVASION OF THE HOME

THE SANCTITY OF THE HOME IS GENERALLY RESPECTED, BUT EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE DO OCCUR IN INSTANCES WHERE OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THERE MAY BE A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE STATE.

2. GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES RELATING TO THE FULFILLMENT OF SUCH VITAL NEEDS AS FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION

THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE HAS BEEN EARNESTLY ATTEMPTING TO CARRY OUT POLICIES TO MEET THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE POPULATION FOR FOOD, HEALTH CARE, SHELTER, AND EDUCATION. IT HAS LAUNCHED AMBITIOUS PROGRAMS IN ALL THESE FIELDS INCLUDING ONE TO VACCINATE THE ENTIRE POPULATION AGAINST

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AND ANOTHER TO ERADICATE ILLITERACY.  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROGRAMS HAS BEEN UNEVEN,

MAINLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF MATERIALS AND TRAINED PERSONNEL  
TO CARRY THEM OUT RATHER THAN BECAUSE OF LACK OF WILL  
ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT.

AS THE RESULT OF THE SPILL-OVER FROM THE WAR IN RHODESIA,  
THE SEVERING OF TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION LINKS WITH  
RHODESIA IN LINE WITH UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS, AND  
THE MASS EXODUS OF TRAINED PORTUGUESE AT THE TIME OF  
INDEPENDENCE, THERE ARE, AT PRESENT, SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS  
IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

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FOOD SHORTAGES ARE COMMONPLACE, HEALTH CARE HAS BEEN  
DISRUPTED, OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION HAVE BEEN  
CURTAILED, AND, IN SOME INSTANCES, FACTORIES HAVE  
CEASED TO OPERATE.

CORRUPTION DIVERTING RESOURCES TOWARDS THE ELITE AND  
AWAY FROM THE POOR DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A SERIOUS  
PROBLEM. WHEN IT IS DETECTED, STRONG ACTION IS GENERALLY  
TAKEN AGAINST THOSE INVOLVED.

3. RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES, INCLUDING:

A. FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, SPEECH, PRESS, RELIGION AND  
ASSEMBLY

CRITICISM MAY BE VOICED FROM WITHIN FRELIMO, THE RULING  
PARTY. HOWEVER, PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE PARTY AND ITS  
POLICIES IS NOT ALLOWED. PERSONS WHO PUBLICLY CRITICIZE  
THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS SOCIAL POLICIES MAY BE SUBJECT  
TO BEING SENT FOR VARYING PERIODS TO "REEDUCATION"  
CENTERS FOR INTENSIVE POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION.

THE MEDIA IN MOZAMBIQUE ARE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED AND  
ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE TO THOSE WHO WISH TO QUESTION BASIC  
GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION IS GUARANTEED IN THE CONSTITUTION,  
BUT THERE HAS BEEN SOME REPRESSION OF FOREIGN MISSION-  
ARIES AND CERTAIN PROSELYTIZING SECTS. CHURCHES ARE NO  
LONGER PERMITTED TO OPERATE SCHOOLS OR HOSPITALS.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY IS LIMITED BY THE ONEPARTY SYSTEM.  
NEVERTHELESS, INDEPENDENT TRADE UNIONS, BASED IN LARGER  
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URBAN AREAS, CONTINUE TO EXIST. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT AND PARTY HAVE MORE AND MORE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF QUASIOFFICIAL WORKERS' ASSEMBLIES AND HAVE ORGANIZED SO CALLED "DYNAMIZING GROUPS" AT INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS TO PROVIDE POLITICAL GUIDANCE AND CONTROL.

B. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN TRAVEL, AND EMIGRATION

THERE IS FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY EXCEPT IN SOME COMBAT-AFFECTED AREAS ADJACENT TO THE RHODESIAN BORDER. THE RIGHT OF EMIGRATION HAS BEEN MAINTAINED FOR NONCITIZENS RESIDENT IN MOZAMBIQUE, BUT THERE ARE TIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON THE REMOVAL OF MONEY AND PROPERTY. RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON EMIGRATION AND FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MOZAMBICAN CITIZENS.

C. FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

MOZAMBIQUE IS A ONE-PARTY STATE CONTROLLED BY FRELIMO. THE PARTY HAS ADOPTED MARXISM-LENINISM AS ITS GUIDING POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. THERE IS UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, BUT ALL COMPETITION AMONG CANDIDATES TAKES PLACE WITHIN THE FRELIMO PARTY STRUCTURE. ELECTION TO NATIONAL OFFICE IS INDIRECT AND EFFECTED THROUGH DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES. OPPOSITION POLITICAL MOVEMENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED.

4. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE AND RECORD REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

NO OUTSIDE INVESTIGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN MOZAMBIQUE OR REQUESTED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. HOWEVER, DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS MOZAMBIQUE HAS PERMITTED FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

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TO TOUR THE COUNTRY EXTENSIVELY. TWO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WHO RECENTLY DID SO, SEPARATELY, REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY. THEY INDICATED THAT WHILE THERE WERE RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES, IN OTHER RESPECTS, SUCH AS IN EFFORTS TO RAISE LIVING STANDARDS, MOZAMBIQUE HAD A FAVORABLE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. VANCE

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